

Ann M. Gallon

3340 Jenkins Road • Bakersfield CA 93314 • 661-589-7796 • amgallon@atg1.com

January 14, 2008

Delores Brown, Chief
Office of Environmental Compliance
California Department of Water Resources
3251 S Street
Sacramento CA 95816

Delivered via Email: delores@water.ca.gov

Dear Ms. Brown:

RE: State Water Project Draft EIR, Monterey Amendments, Kern Water Bank, etc.

I would like to put in writing some of my comments delivered at the 12/5/07 Public Hearing.

I am concerned about the privatization of water across America. The People of California should hold ownership of our water – not corporations. By coincidence, the movie *Chinatown* is airing on television tonight.

The Kern Water Bank has been handed off through layers of bureaucracy to what is essentially a bunch of “water districts” set up and controlled by employees of large corporations (including Paramount Farms with a 48% interest in the Kern Water Bank, plus smaller percents controlled by Tejon Ranch and Newhall Land & Farming) who likely answer to their owners and stockholders, not to the People of California. There is a lack of transparency in their decisions, and the structure of the water districts seems to place them outside CEQA review. Though they deny it, I believe that the Monterey Amendments allowed these corporate controlled “water districts” to trade *paper water* (Table A amounts).

Transfers, or trading, of water runs up the price (profit). This is like a red flag reminder of the energy transfers between power traders that ran up costs and contributed to California's energy crisis.

Water is a fundamental environmental and societal need. Water supply must be realistically measured, conserved, protected and equitably distributed. To protect California's water:

- The Monterey Amendments should be repealed and water contracts rewritten
- Paper water (Table A amounts) should be eliminated
- Water contractors should not be allowed to profit from reselling water
- Kern Water Bank should be returned to control of the People of California

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely yours,



Ann M. Gallon